The Quiet Corner

THE ARTS, DINING, ANTIQUES, ATTRACTIONS & SO MUCH MORE...

# PUTNAM TRAVELER

Supporting Tourism & Communities in Northeastern, CT & Beyond...

ISSUE NO. 53 • NORTHEASTERN, CONNECTICUT

DOWNTOWN MAP INSIDE • JANUARY - MARCH 2017

*For an afternoon, a day, or a weekend...come and enjoy Northeastern Connecticut!*

The Find on 6, Johnston, RI

Welcome to winter in northeastern Connecticut! Although it seems like a good time of year to hybernate, taking in your favorite books and movies, is it also a good time to venture out and try something new. This is a great time of year to search for treasures and update your home. Antique shops, boutiques, and small pop-up shops are fun to explore with unique items that can't be found anywhere else. Consider volunteering, this is a great way to spend time and give back to your community. The Quiet Corner offers several fun ways to gather your friends and family, while taking art, cooking or floral arrangement classes. Get reaquainted with your faith by attending services offered throughout the region. And of course we have a variety of dining to satisfy any taste. Please enjoy this issue of the Putnam Traveler!

## INSIDE:

Local Advertisers...Local Real Estate...Downtown Putnam Events...This issue of the Putnam Traveler features... ***The Find on 6***...located in nearby Johnston, Rhode Island, offers vintage & antique consignments, as well as some new items... there is something here for everyone...***Learn about TEEG***...A small organization that makes a BIG impact on the people of our community...assistance icludes food & fuel, plus early childhood, youth, parent education, senior outreach, and community service programs...***Bloom on Woodstock Hill***...owner Karen Olah combines flowers, wine & friends offering floral arrangment classes for special occasions, seasonally, and also for children... The rich history of ***Danielson's Temple Beth Israel*** continues in innovative ways...and ***De La Terre***...located in Putnam offers delicious healthy food prepared well and creatively...Enjoy exploring northeastern Connecticut and support the businesses that make this region so special!

Bloom

**Downtown Putnam & Area Maps • Businesses • Local Activities • Shopping & Events**

*Northeastern Connecticut* is Forty-Five Minutes from Casinos, Hartford, & Providence
Twenty Minutes from Worcester • One Hour from Boston • Three Hours from New York City

***PUTNAM TRAVELER: 5,000+ Copies Mailed & Distributed to Visitors and Area Businesses throughout CT & MA***
***10,000 Copies Mailed to All Residents of Putnam, Woodstock & Pomfret Connecticut***

THE PUTNAM TRAVELER
is Designed and Published by:
GDP
GLOBAL DESIGN & PUBLISHING LLC
860-963-0414 • PutnamTraveler.com
GDPublishing.com

POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT#8
PUTNAM, CT
06260

Printing of the Putnam Traveler provided by **101 Business Solutions,** Brooklyn, CT
Mailing services provided by **The Laser Letter Shop**, Pomfret, CT

We cannot guarantee the accuracy of this information, discrepancies brought to our attention, will be corrected in the next issue. Any reproduction of the content of the Putnam Traveler without permission is prohibited.
All text provided to Global Design & Publishing, LLC is edited by this publisher as needed and without notice to the originator. Copyright © 2016 Global Design & Publishing, LLC.

# FIRE & ICE

## A Valentine's Festival

**Saturday, Feb. 11 • 10am-10pm**

# ICE

**SCULPTURES, CARVING CONTEST, PROFESSIONAL CARVING DEMONSTRATIONS**

# FIRE

**SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY FIRE PERFORMERS: FIREFLY CARAVAN, PITS, TORCHES**

Discover PUTNAM CONNECTICUT — Vintage Feel. Modern Appeal.

brought to you by: Putnam BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

**CHOCOLATE CONTESTS, LUMINARIAS, LIVE MUSIC, "DATE NIGHT" SPECIALS**

This event is free entry. No experience necessary to enter the contests! Prizes awarded for Ice Sculpting and Chocolate Sculpting. Visit discoverputnam.com for more information.

# Run, walk, jig or jog!
# Great event for young and young-at-heart.

THE COURTHOUSE O'Putnam 5K & Wee Mile

## Sunday, March 12th

Canal Street, Putnam, CT

**Start Time: 5K – 1:00 PM**
**Kids Wee Mile – 12:30 PM**

**REGISTER TODAY!**

**www.HartfordMarathon.com • (860) 652-3866**

# The Find on 6

## Antique & Vintage Consignments

**Adam Wright was born to be in the business of vintage and antique consignment and it shows. Walk into The Find on 6 in Johnston, RI, the shop he has operated for the past three years, and be prepared for a pleasant surprise. The huge space, over 12,000 square feet, is filled with interesting things that are displayed in a visually compelling way. This is a business that knows how to attract sellers as well as buyers with a fresh take on marketing a variety of items.**

BY NANCY P. WEISS

The roots of Wright's interest in antiques goes back to his childhood. His parents were antique dealers and from a young age he visited auctions and estate sales. Later he accompanied his mother when she conducted antique appraisals. Soon he was buying and selling antiques himself and using the new tools that online services provide to reach out to a broad audience.

After earning a degree in Industrial Design at Syracuse University, he entered retail management in New York City and New Jersey. He worked in galleries, boutique shops and major retail outlets. He was employed in NYC when 9/11 happened and soon after decided to return to Rhode Island and strike out on his own. He has never looked back.

"I use some of what I learned about design in NYC in the store. I am drawn to what is pleasing to the eye. We do a lot of visual merchandizing here and it is working very well. People tell me that they "love this place" and they stop every time they are in the area," Wright said.

Commitment to the concept of eye catching displays is so fundamental to The Find on 6 that Wright employs Jamie Bertenshaw as the Visual Merchandising Manager who has been in the field for more than twenty-five years. He creates vignettes of items and changes them often so that the shop has a fresh look each time a customer, consigner or dealer enters the door.

The store was named The Find on 6 because Wright liked the idea that people would make the connection that it is on Route 6.

The Find on 6 has 14 dealer spaces but the largest percentage of the space is used for items sold on consignment.

Wright prefers that consignors email photos of large pieces for evaluation. Smaller items can be dropped off on weekdays without an appointment. Sometimes people arrive with a few boxes in their car or contact him to clear out entire houses. Often there are interesting items that surprise him. A rare $2 bank note was recently consigned. Consignment is based on a 90-day contract with a 50/50 split.

Because of his career in retail and his background in antiques, Adam Wright knows how to price items so they will sell. He is also up-to-date on trends within the industry. At the moment, vinyl records are popular and bring people into the store. Milk glass, copper items and Depression glass might be trending on Pinterest or other online sites and there will be a surge of interest in them. The Find of 6 will have the items.

Younger people are interested in using items in unusual ways and respond to what they see in the media. They have their own taste and decorate in new ways. Wright is seeing a continued interest in mid-century modern and "shabby chic" styles.

At The Find on 6 there are also new sofas from Ashley furniture to complement the coffee tables, end tables, lamps, etc. that are often brought into the store. Adam Wright noticed in other consignment stores that men often waited in the car while their wives shopped. At the Find on 6, Wright made a point to focus on antique tools, bar equipment and sports memorabilia, which increased how often, and how long men visit the store. Now he hears wives exclaim that once their husbands enter the store, they can't get them to leave.

In what some claim is a "throw away culture", Adam Wright is the alternative. Wright works hard with dealers, consignors and customers to reuse, repurpose and resell the items of all descriptions that are The Find on 6.

**The Find on is located at 2953 Hartford Ave., Johnston, RI. Call (401)764-0651 or visit their facebook page @thefindon6 Hours: Sunday & Monday 11-5 Tuesday-Saturday 10-5.**

An oasis in winter, warm bright and colorful!
Naturally beautiful accents for your home and garden, the freshest of flowers, seasonal home decor, plants & terrarium supplies, Stonewall Kitchen and gifts for children.
GARDEN GATE FLORIST

260 Rte. 171 • South Woodstock, CT
(860) 928-0571 • Mon - Sat 9-5, Sunday Seasonal
www.gardengatefloristct.com

the Pirates of Penzance
Directed and Conducted by Robert Sloat
By W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan
A rollicking favorite that features sentimental pirates, bumbling bobbies, lovely ladies, and an eccentric Major General in musical mayhem with a romantic ending for all.
A Special Fundraising Event for the
BRADLEY PLAYHOUSE
Friday, March 17, 2017, at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 18, 2017, at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 19, 2017, at 2:00 p.m.
Purchase your reserved seats in-person at the theater or on-line.
30 Front Street (Route 44 Downtown), Putnam, Connecticut
www.thebradleyplayhouse.org
Bradley season tickets and flex passes are not valid for this production.

de la TERRE
eat, drink & stay healthy
"de la Terre" is French for "of the Earth"
Bringing you back to Mother Nature's healthier, wholesome menu.
(860) 928-1801
22 South Main Street • Putnam, CT 06260
delaterrecafe.com • delaterre@delaterrecafe.com

# TEEG Reaches out to the Community with *Have A Heart Fundraising Gala*

**TEEG is social service agency serving northeastern Connecticut. It may be a small agency, but it has a large impact on the quality of life in area communities all year round. Distributing food and providing other services that meet clients' needs are part of TEEG's empowerment strategy. The resources to accomplish this are secured by year-round collaboration between staff and volunteers.**

BY CAROLINE SLOAT

**The current focus is the annual Have A Heart Valentine's Auction and Friendraiser.** This year's event is on Friday, February 3, 2017, from 6:00 until 10:00 pm at the Raceway Restaurant in Thompson. An exciting array of goods and services have been gathered from near and far for the silent and live auction portions of the gala. The venue will be decorated and glittering with the treasures that will go home with new owners at the end of the evening. How will the funds raised be put to work within our community?

With Anne Miller, now its executive director, TEEG continues its tradition of service. After nearly seventeen years as TEEG's guiding hand and heart, Donna Grant brought Miller into the North Grosvenordale agency as associate director in July 2015. They worked together for a year and then Miller stepped into the leadership role. "The transition was the chance to learn and develop skill sets I already had, but now I'm making connections to and for the people of this wonderful area. It was very invigorating to begin my work with such multi-talented and deeply committed group." Generous, too.

Have a Heart Gala

She recalled three girls who wanted to be part of the summer lunch program. With their mothers, who are serve-safe certified, they organized a hot dog cart to sell lunches on the Thompson Common and "gave us the proceeds as a gift" The day we spoke a volunteer had come in and asked what was needed. Preparations for the Thanksgiving distribution were nearly complete and Miller had noticed that there was no butter to offer. "It was purchased for us," she said gratefully.

TEEG (Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group) is an acronym unique to the Quiet Corner. TEEG was founded nearly thirty years ago by a group of faith-based partners, hence the word ecumenical in its name. Empowerment is a core principle for us here. "It's about creating a caring community right where we live," says Miller. She praises the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and donors who serve their clients for their contributions to its mission of empowerment. "To be clear, some of the program areas are funded by the state and municipalities, but local generosity in cash and in kind really connects TEEG to our communities." While there are other agencies in the region, they have different missions. TEEG is the "only grass-roots social service agency serving Thompson, Woodstock, and Pomfret."

TEEG's services are directed to early childhood, youth, parent education, senior outreach, and community service programs, such as Gamblers Anonymous and Anger Aside. The array of assistance available includes food and fuel and case management (by appointment). Providing food is one of the essential services. Early in the week before Thanksgiving, a group of volunteers from Weiss and Hale Financial were in the building organizing donated fixings. These were being set out for the households who receive food distribution guided by TEEG's client-choice philosophy. This reduces waste because rather than receiving a pre-packed box, clients use a chart based on household size to "shop" at the TEEG pantry. The same is true for the holiday distributions of their turkeys, stuffing, vegetables, apples, piecrust ... and butter.

Summer lunch community garden

TEEG works from its own building, 15 Thatcher Road, in Thompson. Completed with many hours of volunteer


QUINEBAUG MIDDLE COLLEGE

Ask yourself: Am I ready for college in high school?

If the answer is "YES," come see what QMC has to offer! QMC is a public magnet high school for grades 9-12 that offers a challenging curriculum in the Humanities and STEM. Students have access to state-of-the art technology and the EASTCONN Mobile STEM lab! Housed at Quinebaug Valley Community College in Danielson, QMC allows you to earn FREE college credits toward your associate's degree.

Winter Dates to Remember*
**Open House:** January 18, 2017
**Application Deadline:** February 28, 2017
**Accepted Students Night:** March 8, 5:30-7:30pm
*Missed a date? No problem! Call us at 860-932-4040 to schedule a tour or information session!

Get More Information
Fill Out an Application
Schedule a Visit & Tour
EASTCONN Where Learning Comes to Life
Contact Mary Kay Knox- MKnox@eastconn.org
www.eastconn.org/qmc • 860-932-4040



Vanilla Bean Café TM
since 1989
"To Bean or not to Bean...?"
...is it really a question?
breakfast
lunch & dinner
daily specials
beer & wine
gluten free options
~ outdoor patio ~
860-928-1562
Real Good Whole FOOD
Yankee Magazine Editors' Pick
~ Connecticut's Best Country Café ~
"This impossibly funky Connecticut restaurant is full of character (and characters), and is truly in a class by itself."
www.HiddenBoston.com
450 deerfield road - pomfret - connecticut
www.TheVanillaBeanCafe.com

help in 2012, it includes the food pantry, meeting space, and staff offices. There are private spaces for confidential conversations with clients seeking information about resources for short or long-term assistance. With the help of volunteers, the building is staffed for client empowerment is every way possible. Just as food distribution is based on choice, so is the back-to-school distribution of school supplies. It has been transformed so that students get to fill their own backpacks for supplies they know they will need. Other youth programs include adolescent support services and programs such as Got Drama, presented in collaboration with the Bradley Playhouse and, when school is out in summer, camperships and a lunch program.

Weiss and Hale Volunteering

A popular program for families is the free drop-in playgroup offered twice each week for parents/caregivers and their children. These are led by Chelsea Valade, Public Relations and Outreach Coordinator, who said that while their children play, "parents and caregivers use the time to share situations and strategies." TEEG also offers a parent education series, "Focus on Family" that offers speakers and dialogue on a variety of topics, including banking and budgeting, youth and social media, home and health, and opiod abuse (presented by Putnam Pride). Funds are available for fuel assistance and counseling to help with paperwork to obtain public benefits such as health care. TEEG has an open door and anyone coming in for assistance will be greeted and served by staff and volunteers who are welcoming and caring. Details are available on the website: **www.teegonline.org.**

Offering these programs requires resources and for their dedication Miller credits both the leadership of the board of directors and the generosity of the community. "The Annual Report tells our story, and people respond in an amazing way," Miller observes. One is the Angel Campaign, a success because the envelopes distributed with the annual report are returned with contributions. Special food drives and regular food donations through the regional food sharing organizations are essential. Recently, an anonymous funder has made it possible to hire a half-time staff member to write grant applications for the agency.

TEEG's "one big fundraiser" is the Have a Heart Auction. Valade has spent months lining up sponsors and gathering donations for the auctions and raffles. Many volunteers are already in place: Gene Michael Deary will return as the auctioneer for the live auction; others from the board and community, including clients who get excited about the event and want to contribute, will work on this festive event. **Tickets are available at the TEEG office, 860 923-3458. Come prepared to bid on a Disney package, trips to New York City for sightseeing and theater, gift cards for area restaurants, sports events, and exhilarating experiences such as the Ride of Your Life, five laps around the Raceway in a Maserati!**


**If You Enjoy the Putnam Traveler**

Please Support Our Efforts
By Advertising in this Valuable
Tourism and Community Publication!
**Call 860-963-0414 or email:**
**kelly@gdpublishing.com**

Distributed to over 10,000 households - 5,000 copies distributed to businesses in Connecticut & Massachusetts

**Email press releases and article ideas to:**
**kelly@gdpublishing.com**

Putnam Traveler reserves the right to edit articles as needed.
GD Publishing, LLC provides design, photography, editorial & sales for the Putnam Traveler.

THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY
*founded in 1801*

Now accepting applications
for Spring and Fall 2017.

Visit **woodstockacademy.org/admissions** for more information

Coco's Cottage
WOODSTOCK, CT
Unique Clothing & Gifts

253 RT 171, SOUTH WOODSTOCK
*(next to the Woodstock Fairgrounds)*
860-928-1514 • Open W - S, 10-5 and Sun 12-5

USDA ORGANIC
THE STOMPING GROUND
132 Main St, Putnam CT
the-stomping-ground.com
facebook.com/PutnamStompGround
(860) 928-7900

CONNECTICUT GROWN
THE LOCAL FLAVOR.

**TRY OUR DAILY LUNCH AND DINNER SPECIALS!**
**LIVE MUSIC 6 NIGHTS A WEEK**
**10 CRAFT AND MICROBREWS ON TAP**

✷Trivia Every Wednesday at 6pm
✷The Straight Up Jazz Band Every Thursday at 5:30pm
✷Sunday Sound Series Matinee Brunch Show at 1pm

2016 NORWICH MAGAZINE BEST OF Northeastern Connecticut Winner

Hours:
Tues 11:00am-1:00am
Wed 11:00am-1:00am
Thurs 11:00am-1:00am
Fri 11:00am-2:00am
Sat 11:00am-2:00am
Sun 11:00am-1:00am

# Bloom ON WOODSTOCK HILL

## flowers • wine • friends

**Karen Olah is a bundle of energy and enthusiasm. A life-long educator, Olah has transferred her love of the classroom to teaching in a different venue, her new enterprise, Bloom, located at 158 Route 171 in Woodstock. Bloom is the result of a series of experiences that led Olah to the other side of the world and back with a new set of skills that she is eminently prepared to share.**

**BY NANCY WEISS**

From her days as a middle school teacher in Fairfield and Thompson public schools to her years as an administrator and Director of Special Education in Glastonbury, Karen Olah has worked with her head, her heart and her hands. When their daughter moved to Singapore, Karen and her husband, Frank, who is currently the Superintendent of Schools in Hampton, Connecticut, went to visit and ended up staying for five years. They were hired by the prestigious Singapore American School, the largest international school in the world.

"In Singapore I took a course and decided to pursue a degree in floral design from the Nobleman School of Floral Design. The entire class was taught in Chinese; a language I do not speak! I'm a visual learner and by watching my instructor, I passed the course. Now I

am working on a course from the American Institute of Floral Design, the best program in the country. I love sharing what I have learned," Olah said with a laugh.

Woodstock Academy brought the Olahs to Northeastern Connecticut where they bought a home, worked with international students and programs and settled into the community as professionals and active volunteers. Karen Olah held on the idea that at some point she wanted her own business in floral design.

She worked with Jim Palmieri, a design instructor at UConn. He urged her to do something unique. Olah knew that she wanted to make floral design fun and accessible to people with no previous experience. She launched Bloom in August, 2016 in a space she redecorated in Woodstock. The shop is filled with worktables, refrigeration units for fresh flowers, rolls of ribbon and a variety of containers.

"I show them one design and they are off on their own. We talk about texture, color, the use of fresh flowers or silk flowers, called 'permanent botanicals.' Patrons choose what they will make ahead of time so I know exactly what to order. So far, I have had an amazing cross section of the community. Book clubs, the Woodstock Garden Club, office parties, birthdays for adults as well as children, Bachelorette parties, and even couples have come to the shop and had a unique

evening. They bring their own wine and snacks and I provide glasses."

"I'm now often teaching adults, but I when I have parties for children we also have a wonderful time. We make fairy wands, headbands, even an arrangement we call the Ice Cream Sundae, all made out of flowers."

The future of Blooms features plans for expansion and new courses. In January, Olah will begin a series of workshops that will meet 3 times a week, two classes during the day and one in the evening, with enrollment capped at 4 people. The program will be small, intense and comprehensive, using only fresh flowers and will be called Flowers 101. January will also feature an ikebana artist from Boston, who will offer a class in the art of arranging flowers following a specific Japanese style.

To chase away the January blues, Olah will offer blues and jazz music with her classes. Valentine's Day will feature a program for children and their fathers to make a floral gift for their mothers. March will include spring wreaths. April will focus on Easter and May will bring unique Mother's Day offerings. Olah will also offer a program in the spring on the use of succulents in gardens and wreaths.

Brides have expressed interest in DYI wedding flowers. Recently Olah helped bridesmaids and family members create 50 centerpieces for a large wedding. The process was fun and engaging and gave wedding guests a feeling of participation in the festivities.

"People actually learn how to do something-design. I use a curriculum based on what I studied in Singapore. The flowers are central and greens are secondary. I begin by demonstrating how to arrange flowers by placing sticks in floral foam. Once they learn the basics, they can repeat it using their own flowers and containers. People love to do something with their hands that leads to a beautiful product," Olah added.

**Bloom is located at 158 Route 171 Woodstock, CT. Go to www.bloomwoodstock.com or call 860-338-7332 for hours and classes.**

OLD WOOD WORKSHOP
Antique Flooring
Vintage Building Materials
Architectural Antiques
www.oldwoodworkshop.com
Giving old wood new life...
THOMAS CAMPBELL
193 Hampton Road, Pomfret Center, CT 06259
860-655-5259
"Open by chance or appointment"

DANCE THEATRE MUSIC ART
THE COMPLEX
PERFORMING AND CREATIVE ARTS CENTRE
TARZAN®
THE STAGE MUSICAL
BASED ON THE Disney FILM
March 3, 4, at 7:30pm, 5 at 2:00pm
The king of the apes and his lady love swing to the stage in this adaptation of the Disney film.
Musical: $24 for Adults & $21 for Seniors and Students.
A Production by The Complex Performing Arts Center
BRADLEY
Performed at The Bradley Playhouse
All seats reserved Order your tickets online at
www.thebradleyplayhouse.org
Charge by phone: 860-928-7887 Or visit the box office.

Escape the ordinary.
Three showrooms.
One location.
Endless possibilities.
107 Dresser Hill Rd, (Rte 31)
Charlton, MA 01507
(508) 248-5566
Complimentary design service available.
MON-FRI 10-6
SAT 10-5 | SUN 12-5
charltonfurniture.com
Charlton FURNITURE

# The Rich History of Danielson's Temple Beth Israel Continues in Innovative Ways

**Temple Beth Israel on Danielson's Killingly Drive is a faith community formed at a particular time in the twentieth-century history of Northeast Connecticut. It has a distinguished history and a continuing mission that binds its members to this special place. In 2009, the children and grandchildren of the founders reorganized as Temple Beth Israel Preservation Society (TBIPS).**

**BY CAROLINE SLOAT**

I met Naomi Weiner for a tour and conversation. "We are not an active congregation any longer," she told me. We now have a mission of maintaining traditional Jewish celebrations and high holidays, but with a new approach that includes the wider faith community. She is very active in the relationship with the Killingly-Brooklyn Interfaith Council and when we met was planning to the community Thanksgiving Service, a tradition since in 1955. The service alternates between the Brooklyn Federated Church of Christ (2016) and Temple Beth Israel (2017). It is held at the temple in odd-numbered years.

Weiner, who moved to the area about thirty years ago, sketched the history of a Jewish community that dates back to the 1920s—met in members' houses. The numbers grew after World War II, when some forty families who had survived the Holocaust and resettled in New York City learned of the Baron de Hirsh Fund. It facilitated the purchase of land at a low rate of interest to enable these refugees to start their lives over in the United States. Most had not been farmers before they came, but they learned with the assistance of the regional agent of the Jewish Agricultural Society. Many raised poultry. Weiner recalls that when Sophie Drobiarz was asked how it was when she came to northeast Connecticut, she would answer, "I didn't know how to live on a farm. I came from a city in Poland." Her husband Henry, however, became a successful farmer and named Farmer of the Year was invited to attend President Lyndon B. Johnson's inauguration in January 1965. "Members of the founding families became United States citizens as soon as they were eligible because they had left the past behind. They also found it difficult to tell their stories."

But that is now changing. The Preservation Society's mission now includes social justice education to honor and keep alive the spirit of the original community through awareness of human rights struggles around the world today. Norman Berman, currently the president of the Society, presents a program about the Holocaust in area schools based on his research and travels in Poland and Lithuania. He shares what has learned from reading and conversations about the cooperation and indifference to Nazi policies that contributed to the death of six million Jews in six years and the disruption of the lives of survivors. Weiner described going with his daughter to visit the village in Poland where his family once lived. He asked to meet the oldest person in the village. This man, now 92, once the neighbor of one of Berman's grandfathers reflected that he was "such a nice man, and then they took him away." Berman's parents were among the Jewish families who settled in Moosup in the 1950s.

As these settlers put down roots in the area—both in business and agriculture—they also formed a community for worship and sociability. They purchased land then on the outskirts of Danielson in the 1950s to build their original worship space on the ground level. In the following decade as funds accrued, they were able to add a second level as the sanctuary and convert the lower level into a fellowship hall. The sanctuary, built with stone quarried in Brooklyn, is a light-filled area. Light pours into the sanctuary from the east through a large window incorporating the Star of David. It illuminates the Bimah, the raised platform from which services are led and the Torah read. The eternal light glows in front of the Ark that holds the Torah (for its preservation, it is moved during the winter when the sanctuary is too cold for the parchment to retain the ink). The Torah is the Pentateuch, the five books of Moses, and "it is an honor to be called up to read from it," Weiner commented. At the entry, hang prayer shawls—many of them new—close to the memorial board. Bronze plaques memorializing deceased individuals and lost families according to the Hebrew calendar are attached to the board. It is traditional to light a memorial candle and say a prayer on the anniversary of this date.

The temple grew and flourished because of the level of commitment and activity for the men, women, and children who were members. Because Temple Beth Israel is still "home," the community continues to gather for services once a month. Its members are dispersed. Many now come from a distance: Griswold, Norwich, Old Saybrook, Middletown, even Amherst, Massachusetts. The Weiners joined because they found the community warm and inviting, but particularly because of the service leaders, then Henry Drobiarz and now Alan Turner. The group has always relied on lay leaders and has never had a resident rabbi.

The Preservation Society has recently completed in a fundraising campaign, "Let There Be Light," to upgrade the electrical and security systems in their sixty-year-old building. As always, they have looked within their ranks for the funds to move forward. In 2015 they received a grant of $12, 250 from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation for electrical upgrades. (One of the competitive grant programs based at the Trust funds repairs and maintenance of religious buildings.) Daniel Mackay, executive director of the Trust, attended the community Seder and spoke about the importance of this building. "The temple is an intriguing piece of modernist architecture in a rural part of the state. It's historic for reasons of design, but also for the story it represents in terms of settlement and integration and community building." More details about the building, including the application for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (2013) is available on the Preservation Society's website, **www.templebethisraelct.org**. It was also described and illustrated on the Mid-Century Mundane blog that features modernist buildings around the United States: **https://midcenturymundane.wordpress.com/2014/12/03/temple-beth-israel-danielson-ct/**

**The next interfaith community Seder will be held on April 2, 2017. The ritual celebration of freedom is revised every year to include ongoing struggles for freedom around the world. Anyone wishing to attend should be in touch with Naomi Weiner by e-mail: nweinertbips@gmail.com.**

MARTHA'S HERBARY

ACCESSORIES IN AND OUT OF THE GARDEN

*Unique Clothes, Jewelry, Books & Soaps*

589 POMFRET STREET
P.O. BOX 236 • POMFRET, CT 06258
**860-928-0009**
HOURS: TUSEDAY–SAT 10-5PM ~ SUNDAY 12-5PM

**Managing and reducing your energy spend is our primary mission.**

Reducing expenses is no longer just an option in today's challenging business environment. Titan Energy can help reduce your electric costs for both your home and business, along with natural gas costs for your business.

As one of New England's largest and oldest energy aggregators, we help hundreds of customers like you save big on commodity purchases. As experts in the industry , we excel at customer service as well as finding savings.

**Call us for a free pricing comparison and savings projection.**

**Elaine W. Lind, Office: 860-774-1047 Cell: 508-450-7395**

TITAN ENERGY
Creative energy solutions

# Eating Healthy AND Delicious at De La Terre Café

**"You are what you eat." So says the old adage.... If you eat fresh and wholesome food, your body should reflect good health. And if you are sick, good food can often be good medicine. The best part is that healthy food prepared well and creatively can also be delicious, and De La Terre Café, which opened in downtown Putnam in June of last year, makes sure that is what their customers get.**

BY CRIS CADIZ

De La Terre, which means "of the earth" in French, is a small, cozy restaurant in a renovated historic building on South Main Street. Located on the other side of the tracks from the old train station, they serve breakfast, lunch, snacks, juices and smoothies. Everything is prepared fresh and on-site. Custom orders for anything from juice blends to sandwiches are welcome and encouraged. And there are options for every diet, including vegetarian, vegan, gluten and dairy free. Carnivores will not be disappointed either.

Co-owners Joan Rivers-Bardwell and Arlene Vaillancourt met last year through local business networking groups and really hit it off. Together, the two women decided to bring a unique and healthy eating experience to Putnam. Joan brings a long entrepreneurial history to the partnership. Arlene is the food service expert, with over 20 years of experience. When they entered this endeavor, both understood that eating well and right for one's body can make a big difference in quality of life.

Joan watched her daughter Jeana suffer from constant illness and digestive issues since childhood. Despite all kinds of tests and even surgery, doctors could not seem to figure out why. "Everybody was so naïve but it was because she was eating gluten," says Joan. "Her food allergy was so severe that she ended up in the hospital once simply because a restaurant boiled her gluten-free pasta in the same water as regular pasta." After adopting a gluten free diet (in addition to other naturopathic treatments), her daughter's body was finally able to absorb nutrients, vitamins, decrease inflammation and help heal itself.

After Joan's daughter moved to Arizona, she visited her there often. Joan noticed the many healthy dining options available there. "There are tons of gluten free places, tons of juicing places and have been for years. They are very proactive there." After seeing how much eating well helped her daughter's health, Joan started dreaming of offering something similar in the Quiet Corner.

Arlene Vaillancourt has made a career in food service for over 20 years. Joan says that while managing kitchens in nursing homes, her business partner witnessed many elderly people suffer from lack of nutrition. "Arlene would make them smoothies and go out of her way to make these people special diets which weren't provided."

"I would mention to my friends that I'd love to open up a juice bar," says Joan, describing her initial exploration of this venture. "I was going to do that in a small space. But people said it's not as popular here and wouldn't work." Joan thought she could contract with some local catering businesses to offer wraps and sandwiches, but when she met Arlene, she knew the two of them could create a full-service restaurant themselves.

> "People are generally really surprised at how delicious food that's healthy can be. It's great when you have people with a preconceived notion of what something is going to taste like and be blown away."
> –Heather Wiik

Anyone who has a special diet can come in and find something tasty to eat. But De La Terre is not strictly vegetarian or vegan either. Meat, eggs, dairy and many other protein options are available. "I don't think anybody has ever walked out this door and been unhappy," Joan remarks. "We make sure to ask. Everybody walks out saying, 'Oh, it was wonderful.' Our soups are phenomenal. Every day I get 3 or 4 calls... what are your soups today?"

ARCHAMBAULT INSURANCE ASSOCIATES
Real people. Great service.
ArchambaultIns.com
PUTNAM OFFICE
T 860 928 0811
TOLL FREE 877 928 0811
F 860 928 6462
143 Providence St. Putnam
DANIELSON OFFICE
T 860 779 5030
TOLL FREE 866 779 5030
F 860 774 2025
136 Main St. Danielson

WYNDHAM LAND TRUST, INC.
P.O. BOX 102 • POMFRET CENTER, CT 06259
We need your support to help us preserve and protect land in Northeast Connecticut.
Conserving land in the Quiet Corner for 41 years.
For more information about our work and how you can enjoy our preserves, visit us at www.wyndhamlandtrust.org or find us on Facebook.
Your membership and donations are tax deductible.

THE MANSION AT BALD HILL
FULL SERVICE RESTAURANT, PRIVATE DINING, CATERING
Freshest Ingredients Prepared With A Continental Touch
GOURMET DINING • SEASONAL MENU • FINE WINE
SEATING
Tues-Thurs 5-8:30
Fri & Sat 5-9:00
Sunday Brunch 11-2:00
& Dinner 4-8:00
Reservations Requested
~ Inviting Ambience of a Classic Era ~
A Hidden Gem in Connecticut's Quiet Corner
860-974-3456
29 Plaine Hill Road
Woodstock, CT
974-3456
Visit us on the web at
mansionatbaldhill.com
Make Your Next Special Occasion "Simply Memorable"

ARTS & FRAMING
& THE SOCHOR ART GALLERY
SHERI SOCHOR, OWNER
"The difference is, I care"

Wed - Sat....10 - 5pm
Sunday..... 11 - 5pm
or by appointment
112 Main Street
Putnam, CT 06260
860.963.0105
WWW.ARTSANDFRAMINGPUTNAM.COM

De La Terre is extremely customer oriented. "You can create your own juices or smoothies," says Joan. "We go through twenty questions when people come to the counter. Even our menu items are not a standard thing." She gestures toward a large stainless steel salad bar built into the granite counter that separates the open kitchen from the dining area. It is filled with a colorful medley of fresh veggies of every description, all of which can be incorporated into any menu item. "Sometimes it gets a little backed up during lunch. I hope people understand that everything is made to order and it's made right in front of you." At De La Terre, it might take a little more time but you get exactly what you want. And you can always order ahead.

Today, De La Terre employs four people, including Arlene's son David Wiik, her daughter Heather Wiik and new employee Karen Osman. All care passionately about wholesome food and are knowledgeable in how eating well can contribute to good health. Heather, who co-owned a tattoo shop in southeastern Connecticut for several years, had just moved back to the Quiet Corner when the café opened. She immediately got involved. "I've been very interested in a whole foods based diet and juicing and know benefits of unprocessed foods," she says. "I thought it would be fun to offer people in the area that kind of food and show how delicious it can be."

"It's a team effort here," Heather acknowledges. "We all menu plan and create recipes." One of her specialties is creating delightfully healthy sweet treats such as vegan cheesecake, date fudge and chia seed and chocolate avocado pudding. She also makes crispy kale chips, raw tarts, and more. Heather appreciates the open kitchen plan at the restaurant. "You get to interact with customer and see them enjoy your meal. You have a chance to explain the health benefits of eating this way. A lot of our customers are just as knowledgeable about this and I get to learn from them."

"Everyone can benefit from eating plant based as a portion of their diet," says Heather. "Eating our gluten free bread isn't just for those who are gluten free. It's good to eat a diverse diet of different grains as opposed to just wheat."

Heather describes De La Terre as "interactive and inclusive." From the salad bar customers can choose extras on sandwiches or to add to juices, smoothies, omelets, etc. "Nothing is off limits," she says. "We had a customer who wanted garlic in his smoothie. We tried it and it was actually delicious!"

With its original tin ceiling, bead board wainscoting and soft color scheme, De la Terre's vibe is warm, relaxed and informal. They have invested in the best kitchen equipment, including an espresso/specialty coffee machine, high-end juicers, and a fresh orange juice machine. Much of their bread is made locally by Soleil & Sons. Nothing is concentrated. All desserts are made on site. Homemade soups rotate every couple days. Seasonal specials include what's fresh and available.

Sandwich options include nitrate and gluten free meats and gluten free breads. Choose from turkey, ham, tuna, egg and chicken salad. Enjoy menu favorites such as the Cuban, Reuben, Rachael, Classic Italian, or customize your own sandwich. Other delicious choices are the Mediterranean, Eggplant Sarnie and Vegetable Paninis. There is an extensive Salad Bar and Potato Bar as well. Joan says they are looking forward to extending their menu in the new year to include many other healthy options.

**Located at 22 South Main Street, De La Terre is open Tuesday - Friday: 8:00am - 5:00pm and Saturday: 9:00am - 3:00pm. For more information contact them at (860) 928.1801, visit www.delaterrecafe.com or see their Facebook page.**

Complete Estate
& House Cleanouts
We Buy Items!
Complete Cleanouts of Estate, House, Attic, Cellar, Garage, Barn or Items on Property
We Will Work With You Fast & Efficiently
To Help Make Your Cleanout Completely Worry Free!
We are looking to work with real estate agents and estate attorneys.
John: 800-989-4521
Fully Insured/Bonded • Free House Calls
We are serving all of New England – 24 hr. response
Over 20 years experience – a trusted name within the community.
Clean$lateEstate.com

Golden Greek
RESTAURANT & PUB
474 Putnam Pike • Rte 12 • Dayville, CT P.O. Box 518
860-774-0167 • 860-779-0167
Lunch specials under $7.99
~with choice of soup or salad~
SERVING THE BEST: Fresh Seafood • Steaks • Sautés • Pasta Dishes
Brick Oven Pizza • Grinders • Homemade Soups & Bread,
Soup & Salad Bar Available Every Day!

SENIOR CITIZENS
Get a 10% discount on your meal!
Monday-Friday from 11am-3pm
PRIME RIB Thurs-Sun
KENO
OPEN 7 DAYS!!!
Sunday-Thursday 11am-9pm • Friday-Saturday 11am-10pm
**Later Hours for the Lounge**

# 85 main

"An outing to 85 Main can make you feel like you've been on vacation"
- *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*

***James Martin*** **Named Connecticut Restaurant Association's 2014 Restaurateur of the Year**

## Food is Love

**treat the ones you love this Valentine's Day with one of our dinner specials or from our main menu.**

Make your reservation before we fill up.

**American Fusion Cuisine**
fresh, local, organic, sustainable, artistically driven ingredients

**Casual Fine Dining**
inviting & contemporary bar atmosphere

enjoy our raw bar, sushi, lunch, dinner, or late night bar menu served daily 11:30am to 11:00pm

**85 Main St. Putnam CT • www.85main.com • 860.928.1660**



# Quiet Corner Inn

**www.quietcornerinn.com**

- Newly Renovated
- Cable TV with HBO
- Non Smoking Rooms
- Micro / Fridge Available
- Air Conditioned
- Hairdryers In All Rooms
- Free Highspeed Internet
- Restaurants/Shopping Nearby

**Exit 37-W** *(Old Exit 91)* **Off 395**

**Rt. 6 Next To Dunkin Donuts**

Major Credit Cards Accepted
Minutes From Foxwoods Casino & Mohegan Sun

**860•774•9644**

479 Providence Rd. (Rt. 6) Brooklyn, CT



*The Leader In Quality Custom Homes & Remodeling*

WBA
WOODSTOCK BUILDING ASSOCIATES, LLC

From design to completion Woodstock Building Associates works together to ensure consistently superior craftsmanship. Building costs are tailored to fit your budget without compromising quality. If you are looking for an experienced, organized, cost conscious builder, call Woodstock Building Associates today.

**REMODELING • NEW CONSTRUCTION**
**KITCHENS & BATHS • PLUMBING • AC/HEATING**

Woodstock Building Associates, LLC
78 Prospect Street • Woodstock, CT 06281
860.928.0897
**wbahomes.com**

HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

*CT Home Improvement Contractor #565903 • CT New Home Construction Contractor #160*



DANCE THEATRE MUSIC ART
# THE COMPLEX
PERFORMING AND CREATIVE ARTS CENTRE

134 Main Street
Putnam, CT
www.thecpac.org
860.963.7170

Progressive and Nurturing Environment - Programs for Children, Teens and Adults

## DANCE
Early Childhood Movement Program
Classical Ballet Curriculm
Ballet Performance Comapny
Modern Dance Education
Modern Dance Company
Choreography/Composition
Musical Theatre
Contemporary Dance Styles
Conditioning
Tap

## VISUAL ART
Classes for age 5 and up
Creative Process Development
Painting
Drawing
Mixed Media
Digital Design
Creative Writing
Community Projects

## MUSIC
Private, Specialized Instruction
Instruction for age 5 through adult
Piano
Voice
Ukulele
Guitar
Bass
Performance Opportunities

## THEATRE
Comprehensive acting training
Music Theory
Musical Theatre
Equal focus on technical training and performance
Three Sessions per year include classes and rehearsals
Three different mainstage performance experiences per year
Community 'Pop-Up' Performances
Theatre Production training
---design, directing, playwriting, costuming, make-up, tech

**NOW ENROLLING 2016-2017 EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

PRE-PROFESSIONAL TRAINING
RECREATIONAL TRAINING
SPECIALIZED TRAINING FOR ALL AGE LEVELS
ACCOMPLISHED FACULTY OF EDUCATORS
COLLEGE ADVISEMENT
SUPPORTIVE AND ENCOURAGING ENVIRONMENT
MANY PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

**CELEBRATING 12 YEARS OF ARTS EDUCATION**
www.thecpac.org



***Don't Miss Out On The Next Issue – to Advertise Call... 860-963-0414 or visit www.PutnamTraveler.com***